

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)

✓ Please cancel claims 8 and 24 without prejudice.

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1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

an interface connectable to a network, said interface configured to transmit information via a frame in said network, said frame comprising a packet envelope carrying a plurality of packets, wherein a first of said packets has one or more labels configured to control routing of said first packet through said network, a link layer address following said labels and a payload to carry said information.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said network comprises one of a Synchronous Optical Network and a Synchronous Digital Hierarchy fiber optic network.

4. (CANCELED)

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said one or more labels comprise Multi-Protocol Label Switching labels.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said packets comprises a Simple Data Link packet with a payload header configured to store configuration information to identify one of a plurality of protocols used in said packet.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said link layer address comprises a destination address and a source address.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first packet further comprises a data identification portion preceding said labels and configured to identify a data type of said information.

11. (CANCELED)

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first packet further comprises an error portion configured to determine a data error.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said network comprises a plurality of nodes configured to address said one or more labels.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein each of said nodes comprise de-framing hardware configured to read said one or more labels from said first frame.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein each of said plurality of nodes is configured to transport said first frame in response to said one or more labels.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

one or more nodes configured to transfer one or more frames on a network, each of said frames comprising a packet envelope carrying ~~one or more~~ a plurality of packets, at least one of said packets having one or more labels configured to control switching of said at least one packet by said one or more nodes, wherein a first of said packets has a first protocol and a second

of said packets has a second protocol unrelated to said first protocol.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for transmitting one or more packets of data, comprising the steps of:

(A) transmitting a frame comprising a packet envelop carrying said one or more packets, a first of said one or more packets comprising one or more labels and a payload; ~~and~~

(B) controlling switching of said first packet in said frame through said network in response to said one or more labels; and

(C) switching said first packet to another network in response to said one or more labels.

18. (CANCELED)

19. (CANCELED)

20. (CANCELED)

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a second of said packets is void of said labels.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 81, wherein said first packet further comprises a network layer address following said link layer address.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 17, wherein said one or more labels comprises Multi-Protocol Label Switching labels.

24. (CANCELED)

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of:

storing a path signal label in a Path Overhead section in a frame header of said frame to specify each type of said one or more packets within said packet envelope.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 17, wherein said first packet has a first protocol, a second of said one or more packets has a second protocol different than said first protocol and a third of said one or more packets has a third protocol different than said first protocol and said second protocol.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 17, wherein step (A) comprises the sub-steps of:

transmitting said one or more labels of said first packet; and

transmitting a link layer address of said first packet after transmitting said one or more labels.

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